

splash!

quick facts on...

MODIFIED PHASE II

WASTING
WATER
IS A CRIME

bewatersmart

The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

NOTE

This document represents a summary of Phase II Water-Use Restrictions as they apply to **residential/community use**. For more details, or for a copy of the Water Shortage Rule, contact the South Florida Water Management District at 1-800-662-8876 or visit our web site at www.sfwmd.gov

RESIDENTIAL/COMMUNITY
Water-Use Restrictions
PHASE II

EFFECTIVE APRIL 2, 2001

Water Shortages

Water shortages and water conservation fall under the District's mission for water supply.

South Florida depends upon rainfall for its water supply. While South Florida gets 55-60 inches of rain a year, the rainfall is seasonal, falling mostly in the summer and fall. The rainfall is also cyclical, meaning there are typically 10-year cycles of drought and flood.

To manage water shortages in an organized and efficient manner, the District has adopted a Plan and a Rule to restrict water use when supplies fall short. (Sec. 373.246, F.S.; Ch. 40E-21, F.A.C.). The goal is to protect the remaining supply by conserving water, preventing saltwater intrusion and assuring a fair distribution of available supplies. Before declaring a water shortage and imposing mandatory water-use restrictions, the District typically alerts the public by issuing a "warning." Under a water shortage warning, residents are asked to conserve water voluntarily.

Water-Use Restrictions

The District has established specific water-use restrictions according to the severity of the water shortage – Phase I, **moderate**; Phase II, **severe**; Phase III, **extreme**; and, Phase IV, **critical** – each requiring an increasingly larger reduction in water use. The District correlates each phase of the restrictions to the overall percentage of reductions needed. Phase II aims for a 30 percent reduction in water use.

General Guidelines

- All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
- Essential services involving public health and safety, such as fire-fighting, are not restricted.
- Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to the use of treated wastewater (reuse water),

desalinated water or water from aquifer storage and recovery wells.

- Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to low-volume irrigation using equipment or devices that apply water directly to the root area of a plant.
- Water-use restrictions generally DO apply to water from private wells and all surface waters such as canals, lakes, ponds and rivers.
- Any exemptions from the restrictions must be through a formal process, that is, by obtaining a variance from the District.

Water Users

Water users are grouped into categories according to use – residential, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc. – and, according to the source from which the water comes. Residential users are the largest user-group affected by water restrictions.

**Residential/Community
Water-Use Restrictions
Phase II Summary**

Because about half the water used in South Florida is for lawn/landscape irrigation, the District targets outside water-use for restrictions. Irrigation

is most efficient in the early-morning hours when less evaporation occurs.

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Lawn/Landscape Watering & Maintenance for Homes With LESS THAN FIVE IRRIGATED ACRES of Land

- Watering is permitted on Wednesdays and Saturdays between **4-8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an odd number (1,3,5,7,9). No area may be watered more than **two days** per week.
- Watering is permitted on Thursdays and Sundays between **4-8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an even number (0,2,4,6,8) or with no address. No area may be watered more than **two days** per week.
- As minimally necessary to prevent plant die off, hand watering with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle is allowed between **5-7 p.m.** daily, except Fridays.
- **New lawn/landscaping** planted for less than thirty days may be watered between **4-8 a.m.** daily, except Fridays.
- Watering **new lawn/landscaping** by hand with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle shall be voluntarily reduced.
- **Pesticide applications** are allowed during hours and days of the lawn/landscape watering schedule.
- **Pesticide application** is permitted by a licensed pesticide technician at any time. Technician must be on premises.
- When **cleaning, adjusting or repairing existing irrigation systems**, ten minutes of operating the irrigation system per zone/per week is permitted. And, ten minutes of system operation is permitted on a one-time basis for new irrigation systems.

Lawn/Landscape Watering & Maintenance for Homes With MORE THAN FIVE IRRIGATED ACRES of Land

- Watering is permitted on Wednesdays and Saturdays between **12:01-8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an odd number (1,3,5,7,9). No area may be watered more than **two days** per week.
- Watering is permitted on Thursdays and Sundays between **12:01-8 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an even number (0,2,4,6,8) or with no address. No area may be watered more than **two days** per week.
- As minimally necessary to prevent plant die off, hand watering with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle is allowed between **5-7 p.m.** daily, except Fridays.
- **New lawn/landscaping** planted for less than thirty days may be watered between **2-8 a.m.** daily, except Fridays.
- Watering **new lawn/landscaping** by hand with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle shall be voluntarily reduced.
- **Pesticide applications** are allowed during the hours/days of the lawn/landscape watering schedule.
- **Pesticide application** is permitted by a licensed pesticide technician at any time. Technician must be on premises.

- When **cleaning, adjusting or repairing existing irrigation systems**, ten minutes of operating the irrigation system per zone/per week is permitted. And, ten minutes of system operation is permitted on a one-time basis for new irrigation systems.

Car, Boat & Equipment Washing

- Washing of cars, boats and other equipment is permitted **4-8 a.m.** and **5-7 p.m.** on the lawn/landscape watering days. Washing must be done on, or must drain to, a non-paved surface that permits water to soak into the ground. And, it must be done using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Washing and detailing of cars is allowed anytime if done by a licensed individual or company using an automatic shut-off nozzle and low water-use techniques.
- Rinsing and flushing of boats after saltwater use is allowed once a day for up to 15 minutes per boat.
- Rinsing of salt spray from vehicles in coastal areas shall be limited to 30 seconds per vehicle, once per day using low volume methods.

Other Outdoor Water Uses

- **Washing or rinsing** of sidewalks, driveways, streets or other paved surfaces is NOT ALLOWED at any time unless done with low-volume pressure cleaning equipment. That is, the equipment must be designed to reduce the volume of water used.
- **Low-volume pressure cleaning** is permitted between **4-8 a.m.** on the lawn/landscape watering days and **5-7 p.m.** daily, except Fridays.
- **Live-aboard boats** that serve as a primary residence may be washed or rinsed during the lawn/landscape watering day/time schedule based on the number of the boat slip or the address of the location of the dock.
- Filling or refilling of existing **swimming pools** is allowed after repair or resurfacing. If a pool is emptied, it must drain onto a non-paved surface such as a lawn.
- Re-circulating **fountains and ornamental water features** may be operated if the water use is efficient, meaning that there is no wind draft, leaking or overflowing of water.

Further Water Supply Shortages

The District may declare more stringent restrictions depending on the conditions of the water resources in both the Lake Okeechobee and local groundwater sources.

– FOR WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION & MATERIALS –
Contact the SFWMD at 1-800-662-8876.

This publication is also available on our Water Shortage web site at <http://www.sfwmd.gov/curre/watshort/index2.html>



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SERVICE CENTERS

Big Cypress Basin
941-597-1505
Broward
954-713-3200
Fort Myers
941-338-2929 or 800-248-1201
Florida Keys
305-289-2739 or 800-464-5067

Martin/St. Lucie
561-223-2600 or 800-250-4100
Miami/Dade
305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300
Okeechobee
863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200
Orlando
407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250
Palm Beach
561-682-6302 or 800-432-2045 ext. 6302